

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ADS-00 SMS-01 A-02 AID-05
CCO-00 HA-05 FBOE-00 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSCE-00
OC-06 OMB-01 OPR-02 PA-01 PM-05 CA-01 DCT-02
OCS-06 SP-02 SS-15 SY-05 USSS-00 SR-04 ACDA-12
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INRE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
ANAE-00 IO-14 /137 W

-----106997 281608Z /40

O P 280302Z DEC 79

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6618

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

/CINCPAC

CINCEUR

USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 8667

CINCPAC AND CINCEUR ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12065: GDS 12/28/85 (AMSTUTZ, J. BRUCE) OR-M

TAGS: PEPR, PINR, PGOV, AF

SUBJ: SITREP #9: SOVIET OCCUPATION OF KABUL

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. AS OF 1900 HOURS KABUL TIME, KABUL IS A STUNNED, EERILY
SILENT CITY. THE CURIOSITY SEEKERS WHO WENT INTO THE
STREETS LATE THIS MORNING RETREATED INTO THEIR HOMES BY
NOON, AND VEHICULAR TRAFFIC HAS BEEN SPARSE ALL AFTERNOON.
WHAT THE CURFEW HOURS ARE TONIGHT WE HAVE NO IDEA. IN
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MID-AFTERNOON, THE FOUR MIG 21S WHICH SINCE DAWN HAD BEEN
MAKING INTIMIDATING, LOW PASSES OVER THE CITY FINALLY FADED
AWAY. PROVIDENTIALLY, THE CITY'S ELECTRICAL POWER SUPPLY
HAS NEVER FAILED, BUT THE TELEPHONE SYSTEM HAS REMAINED OUT
OF ORDER SINCE EARLY YESTERDAY EVENING.

3. I MUST REPORT THAT OUR CHANCERY BUILDING DID NOT EMERGE

FROM YESTERDAY EVENING'S FIGHT UNSCATHED. WE COUNTED TODAY 10 BULLET HOLES IN OUR WALLS, BUT FORTUNATELY NO WINDOWS WERE HIT.

4. THE SOVIET MILITARY PRESENCE IS EVIDENT THROUGHOUT THE CITY. SOVIET SOLDIERS WITH THEIR ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS, AND SOMETIMES ARTILLERY, ARE STATIONED AT STRATEGIC INTERSECTIONS AND IN FRONT OF IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS SUCH AS RADIO AFGHANISTAN AND THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

5. ALMOST NO AFGHAN SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN SPOTTED ANYWHERE, THOUGH A FEW UNIFORMED TRAFFIC POLICEMEN WERE AT DUSK STILL STANDING AT IMPORTANT INTERSECTIONS, AND SOME DIPLOMATIC INSTALLATIONS (LIKE OUR CHANCERY) CONTINUE TO HAVE AFGHAN POLICE GUARDS. HOWEVER, OUR FOUR AFGHAN POLICE AT THE AMERICAN CENTER DISAPPEARED EARLY THIS MORNING AND HAVE NEVER RETURNED, AND THE PAIR AT THE CHARGE'S RESIDENCE MELTED AWAY AFTER LUNCH. THE CHARGE'S POLICE BODYGUARD SHOWED UP FOR HALF A DAY IN PEASANT GARB AND THEN HE HIMSELF DISAPPEARED AT NOON. THE RSO IS ACCOMPANYING THE CHARGE ON ALL TRIPS BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN THE EMBASSY AND THE CHARGE'S RESIDENCE.

6. UP TO NOON TODAY THERE WERE APPARENTLY POCKETS OF AFGHAN MILITARY RESISTANCE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN, BEYOND DARULAMAN AND KARGA. IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT THE SOVIET ARTILLERY AND CERTAIN DUG-IN TANK BASTIONS NEAR OUR CHANCERY

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HAVE BEEN POINTED NOT INTO TOWN BUT OUTSIDE OF TOWN, TOWARDS THE AIRPORT, TOWARDS THE PUL-I-CHARKI TANK BASES, AND JALALABAD. OBVIOUSLY THE SOVIETS ARE UNCERTAIN ABOUT THE LOYALTY OF THE AFGHAN ARMY. AT LEAST 30-40 SOVIET-MANNED BMD'S (TRACKED ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS) HAVE BEEN COUNTED DEPLOYED ABOUT THE CITY. THROUGHOUT THE DAY, A MODERATE SOVIET AIRLIFT OF AN-12'S CONTINUED, PRESUMABLY BRINGING MORE TROOPS OR MATERIEL.

7. MORALE AMONG OUR 31-MEMBER U.S. MISSION STAFF REMAINS HIGH. FEW FEEL IN PERSONAL DANGER. IN THE EMBASSY, WE ARE WORKING IN SHIFTS AROUND THE CLOCK, GETTING OUT MESSAGES AND BATTENING DOWN THE HATCHES. TOMORROW MORNING I WILL BE MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AMERICAN PRIVATE COMMUNITY TO BRIEF THEM ON THE SITUATION AND TO RECOMMEND AGAIN THAT THEY FOLLOW OUR ADVICE OF SIX MONTHS AGO TO EVACUATE DEPENDENTS AND LESS ESSENTIAL EMPLOYEES. OUR RADIO WARDEN NETWORK PROVED A GOD-SEND YESTERDAY EVENING AND THROUGHOUT TODAY SINCE THE CITY TELEPHONE SYSTEM HAS BEEN OUT OF ORDER; AND SO FAR THE NEW GOVERNMENT HAS NOT TRIED TO STOP OUR TRANSMISSIONS.

8. LATER THIS EVENING WE WILL SEND ANOTHER SITREP, BUT AS OF NOW THE CITY IS DEATHLY QUIET. THE SOVIETS OR THEIR WHITE ARM-BANDED PARCHAM FOLLOWERS ARE HOWEVER TRIGGER HAPPY. A MARINE GUARD SPOTTER ON THE ROOF WAS JUST SHOT AT, AND WE HAVE HAD HIM TAKE COVER IN THE SHELTERED AREA.

9. THE AFGHANS WE HAVE TALKED TO, ESPECIALLY OUR LOYAL FSN'S, ARE VERY DEPRESSED OVER THE TURN OF EVENTS AND THE SEEMING LOSS OF AFGHANISTAN'S INDEPENDENCE. ONE MUTTERED TO US A FEW MINUTES AGO, "WAIT AND SEE, WE WILL FIGHT THE SOVIETS AND EXPELL THEM." AMSTUTZ

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